

Minutes  
Catawba County Board of Commissioners  
Special Session, Monday, November 10, 2003, 6:00 p.m.

**County Schools**

Special session with three school boards of education

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, November 10, 2003, 6:00 p.m., at the Agricultural Resources Center, 1175 South Brady Avenue, Newton, North Carolina. Dinner was available at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting began at 6:00 p.m. The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met jointly with the Boards of Education of the Catawba County Schools, Newton-Conover City Schools, and Hickory Public Schools to present progress reports and information about the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) program.

**Catawba County Board of Commissioners Roll Call:**

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice-Chairman Dan A. Hunsucker, Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Barbara G. Beatty, and Lynn M. Lail.

Absent: N/A

A quorum was present. No action was taken.

Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, County Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney, and Economic Development President Scott Millar.

**Board of Education of the Catawba County Schools Roll Call:**

Present were Betty Blackburn, Sherry Butler, Allen Biggerstaff, Charlie Wyatt, and Mark Sigmon.

Dr. Ann Hart, Nancy Yount, and Terry Bledsoe were also present.

**Board of Education of the Newton-Conover City Schools Roll Call:**

Present were Edgar Gurley, Randy Isenhower, Sam McRee, Polly Pearson, Mark Canrobert, and Barbara Clark. Newly elected board members Susan Hicks and Scott Lowdermilk were also present.

Dr. Will Crawford was present.

**Board of Education of the Hickory Public Schools:**

Present were Sarah Talbert, Joab Cotton, Nancy Meek, Gloria Hemphill, Vanessa Linebarger, and Robert Braswell. Newly elected board member David Elder was present.

Dr. Duane Kirkman, Dr. Ric Vandett, and Mary Duquette were present.

1. Welcome.

At 6:00 p.m., Dr. Will Crawford welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Hickory Public Schools for hosting the meeting and for providing the meal.

2. Purpose.

Catawba County Manager J. Thomas Lundy said the purpose of the meeting was an opportunity for the three School Boards of Education to meet with Commissioners, media and citizens and present the progress they are making as well as information about "No Child Left Behind."

3. *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*
  - Overview

- Comparison to North Carolina ABCs Program

Dr. Ric Vandett gave the following PowerPoint presentation on North Carolina and "No Child Left Behind."

He said the program was signed into law on January 8, 2002

- Tremendous impact on North Carolina's public schools
- Closing achievement gaps
- Holding schools accountable for all students
- Highly qualified teachers
- Will be integrated with the ABCs
- Greater local school accountability and control
- Rewards for success
- Sanctions for not meeting standards
- Strong basics
- Flexibility in resource allocation
- Parent communication, participation, and, in NCLB, school choice

He reviewed 3rd-8th graders proficient in both reading and math

2001-02	74.7%
1996-97	61.7%
1992-93	53%

Low-performing schools

2001-02	.8% K-12 schools
1996-97	7.5% K-8 schools

In 2001, the General Assembly mandated that, beginning in the 2002-03 school year, the state include a "closing the achievement gap" component in its measurement of student growth.

Achievement gap: Percent at or above grade level in reading and math 3-8 EOGs

2001-02	56.6% black students	84.4% white students
2000-01	52% black students	82% white students
1992-93	30.1% black students	63.4% white students

- All students proficient or better in reading and mathematics (according to state standards) by 2013-14
- Building on the success of the ABCs to meet the goal of the federal law
- Expands testing - scope and participation
- Focuses assessment data on subgroup performances
- Increases reporting of disaggregated data results and progress toward closing the achievement gap
- [www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb)
- Raises standards for teachers and paraprofessional quality
- Increases the flexibility and amount of federal funding to over \$352 million (a 24%+ increase in NCLB program areas compared to 2001-02)
- Opens more options for parents - supplemental services, information and school choice
- Annual reading and mathematics tests for Grades 3-8 (already in place) and in Grades 10-12 (reinstating Comprehensive Tests of Reading and Mathematics for Grade 10)
- Continued NAEP sample testing in reading and mathematics in Grades 4-8 (biennially)
- Science testing required by 2007-08
- LEP students must be tested annually
- The school as a whole
- White
- Black
- Native American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- Multiracial
- Limited English Proficient
- Students with Disabilities
- Economically Disadvantaged Students

Year	Grades 3-8		Grade 10	
	%		%	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
2002-03	68.9	74.6	52	54.9
2004-05	76.7	81	64	66.2
2007-08	84.5	87.3	76	77.5
2010-11	92.2	93.7	88	88.7
2013-14	100	100	100	100

-All subgroups meet or exceed AYP targets for the year OR  
 -The percentage of students not scoring proficient in a subgroup is reduced by at least 10 percent in a year, and the subgroup makes progress on the other AYP indicator

-Starting points were determined by average scores  
 -Many students subgroups at many schools score below this average  
 -Achievement gap: Percent at or above grade level in reading and math 3-8 EOGs  
     2001-02      74.7% total      56.6% blacks      84.4% whites  
 -More than half of NC schools probably won't make AYP

Year	Status	Sanctions
Year 1	Fails to make AYP	None
Year 2	Fails to make AYP	None
Year 3	Fails to make AYP In Title I SI	Public school choice, technical assistance
Year 4	Fails to make AYP In Title I SI	Public school choice, supplemental educational services, technical assistance
Year 5	Fails to make AYP In Title I SI	Public school choice, supplemental education services, corrective action, technical assistance
Year 6	Fails to make AYP In Title I SI	Public school choice, supplemental educational services, plan for restructuring, technical assistance
Year 7	Fails to make AYP In Title I SI	Public school choice, supplemental educational services, implement plan for restructuring

-By June 30, 2006, all core subject area teachers will meet NCLB's definition of highly qualified  
 -Teachers must meet the requirements for full certification and have demonstrated competency in each of the subjects that they teach  
 -Almost 30% of NC's 85,817 teachers are not fully licensed and/or are lacking subject area certification  
 -Newly-hired teachers (those who began work in the 2002-03 school year) working in Title I funded programs teaching in core academic areas must already meet NCLB's definition of highly qualified  
 -Lateral entry teachers must meet the same qualifications in three years (not five years)  
 -Not-new teachers in core subject areas must meet the definition of highly qualified by June 30, 2006  
 -Passing Praxis II test(s) demonstrates subject area knowledge  
 -Other options: major or its equivalent, graduate degree in subject area, master's level licensure in subject area, NBC in subject area  
 -NCLB calls for states and districts to provide annual report cards on school performance and teacher quality to parents and the public  
 -[www.ncreportcards.org](http://www.ncreportcards.org)  
 -Title I school parents have extensive rights to notification, information and involvement opportunities  
 -Many communications challenges  
 -Communications ideas are available at [www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/nclb)  
 -Communicate our commitment to educating each child in the state of North Carolina

#### 4. Dr. Kirkman presented the System Profiles

- Membership

## Current Membership

	2002	2003	Change
Catawba County	16,261	16,605	+344
Hickory Public Schools	4,395	4,514	+119
Newton-Conover			
City Schools	2,761	2,843	+82
Totals	23,417	23,962	+545

## - Ethnic and Racial Percentages, ABC and NCLB (AYP) Results

Dr. Duane Kirkman gave a PowerPoint presentation.

## Ethnic Percentages

	CCS		HPS		NCCS		Total Number	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
American Indian	.1%	.2%	.1%	.2%	.2%	.3%	45	51
Asian	7.7%	7.4%	8.6%	7.6%	7.4%	7.1%	1829	1775
Hispanic	5.4%	6.1%	10.6%	11.4%	11.3%	11.9%	1665	1865
Black	6.7%	6.6%	25.8%	26.0%	18.4%	19.4%	2737	2820
White	78.3%	77.6%	52.3%	51.9%	60.2%	58.5%	16687	16892
Multi-Racial	2.6%	2.1%	2.6%	2.9%	2.5%	2.8%	454	559

## - Free and Reduced Lunch Participation

	2002	2003	Change
Catawba County Schools	31.3%	33.6%	+2.3%
Hickory Public Schools	50.3%	52.6%	+3.7%
Newton-Conover City Schools	45.0%	48.0%	+3.0%

Dr. Kirkman also reviewed the performance and trend in proficiency of all students in each grade on the ABCs end-of-grade tests for 2002-03 in reading, math and ELPS=Economics, Legal, and Political Systems.

## No Child Left Behind

	Catawba	Hickory	Newton-Conover
Average Number of Targets per School	18	18.3	18.2
Number of Schools Achieving AYP	10	3	2
Number of Schools in LEA	25	9	5
Percent of LEA Targets Achieved	84.6	83.0	91.1
Total Number of Targets for LEA	65	53	45
Total Number of Targets met for LEA	55	44	41

## 5. System Highlights

The Superintendents reviewed the many highlights of their school systems such as academic excellence, athletics, arts, as well as award winning, leaders in education, community support, and parent/staff ratings.

## 6. Questions and Discussion

There was a brief question and discussion session.

## 7. Closure

Dr. Hart said the three Superintendents and school staff in Catawba County works very well together and share ideas. She thanked the Board of Commissioners for its support.

Chair Barnes thank school staff and school board members for the work they do on a daily basis to enrich the lives of children in Catawba County.

At 7:30 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

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Katherine W. Barnes  
Chair, Board of Commissioners

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Thelda B. Rhoney  
County Clerk